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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Fremont Offers Red-Light Camera Traffic Ticket Rebates at Two Intersections on Mowry Avenue between February 1 to April 7, 2016

FREMONT, Calif. – May 10, 2017 – The City of Fremont has offered partial rebates to 672 motorists who received a traffic citation associated with the red-light camera program at two intersections on Mowry Avenue at Farwell Drive and Blacow Road from February 1, 2016 to April 7, 2016.

The citations were all legally issued in compliance with State laws. However, Fremont is offering the rebates in an effort to mitigate the sudden reduction in the yellow time. For many years, the traffic signals along Mowry Avenue operated with 4.0 seconds of yellow time. In July 2015, the City’s Public Works Department increased the yellow time interval from 4.0 seconds to 4.7 seconds. In February 2016, the yellow time was changed back to 4.0 seconds and in October 2016 it was changed again to 4.7 seconds.

“At that time, the City was conducting separate traffic engineering studies along the Mowry corridor to update traffic signal yellow times to conform with new State rules, validate designated speed limits, and coordinate traffic signals for improved efficiency,” said Hans Larsen, Fremont Public Works Director. “The different efforts led to the fluctuations in the yellow time. We have confirmed that the required minimum yellow time is 3.9 seconds, so the signals have always operated with yellow times above the minimum requirements. We acknowledge and regret that shortening the yellow time in February 2016 may have surprised some people who had gotten used to a longer yellow light.”

It has been concluded that the citations were legally issued, the traffic signals were operating within State guidelines, and there was no basis to consider dismissing tickets. At this time, Fremont has opted to rebate its portion of revenue from the tickets for the first two months after the yellow time had been shortened. A typical red-light running citation has a cost of \$490, for which Fremont receives \$147.

“While running red lights is a serious safety issue, we are taking this step to offer a fair resolution to those who received a traffic ticket during that time period at those particular intersections,” said City Manager Fred Diaz.

The City of Fremont Public Works Department recently sent a total of 672 letters to individuals who received citations and paid their fines for red-light running violations at the Mowry Avenue intersections, during February 1, 2016 to April 7, 2016. The letters provide information on how to obtain the rebate. Additional information on the rebate program is available on the City’s website at www.Fremont.gov/RedLightCameraProgram.

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